

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

Notice was duly published July 9, 2019 on Page 5 of The Daily Record that the regular public meeting of the Commissioners of the Nebraska Public Service Commission would be held on May 14, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room, 300 The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Lincoln.

Chair Mary Ridder called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier present. Chair Ridder stated that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room and invited the public to address the Commission. No public comments were received. No announcements were made.

Attention was called to the following proceedings:

Wednesday, July 17, 2019:

1:00 Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln
 911 Service System Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2019:

9:00 Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Quarterly Meeting
NG-101.1 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own Motion, opening an investigatory docket for the purpose of general monitoring of issues regarding the natural gas industry and jurisdictional utilities in Nebraska. Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company and, Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy. Commissioner Rod Johnson presiding as Hearing Officer.

Tuesday, July 23, 2019:

9:00 Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln, Workshop
NG-100 In the Matter of the Joint Application of Black Hills Gas Distribution, LLC, and Black Hills/Nebraska Gas Utility Company, LLC, Rapid City, South Dakota, seeking approval to consolidate the Nebraska tariffs, assets, liabilities, and operations of the two companies, and to rename the consolidated entity Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC. Commissioner Dan Watermeier presiding as Hearing officer.

Tuesday, July 30, 2019:

10:00 Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln
 Commission Meeting

1:30 Commission Hearing Room, Lincoln
NUSF-92 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on PO #8 its own motion, to administer the Nebraska Universal Service Fund Broadband Program. Commissioner Crystal Rhoades presiding as Hearing Officer.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

C-5042 In the Matter of the Application of Randal Rainforth, Prosser, seeking authority to receive advanced telecommunications service from the Doniphan Exchange of Hamilton Telephone Company. Commissioner Rod Johnson presiding as Hearing Officer. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter an Order denying the Motion for rehearing. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

TRS-21 In the Matter of Cullen Robbins, Director of the Communications Department of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, Complainant, v. Ionex Communications North, Inc., d/b/a Birch Communications, Respondent. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter an Order dismissing the Complaint. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

AD-674r In the Matter of the application of Tele-Town Hall, LLC, Arlington, Virginia, seeking authority to register the connection of an automatic dialing-announcing device in Des Moines, Iowa.

AD-675r In the Matter of the application of Tele-Town Hall, LLC, Arlington, Virginia, seeking authority to register the connection of an automatic dialing-announcing device in Chicago, Illinois. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter Orders granting applications AD-674r and AD-675r. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades voting NAY.

C-5053 In the Matter of the Application of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC, Littleton, Colorado, seeking approval of an Interconnection Agreement with BTC, Inc., Breda, Iowa.

C-5054 In the Matter of the Application of Qwest Corporation d/b/a CenturyLink QC, Littleton, Colorado, seeking approval of a Mid-Span Meet POI Amendment to the Interconnection Agreement with BTC, Inc., Breda, Iowa. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter Orders granting applications C-5053 and C-5054. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

NUSF-37.362 In the Matter of Cullen Robbins, Director of the Communications Department of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, Complainant, v. Ionex Communications North, Inc., d/b/a Birch Communications, Respondent. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter an Order dismissing the Complaint. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

NUSF-99.43 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Request.

NUSF-99.51 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Request.

NUSF-99.53 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Request.

NUSF-99.54 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Request.

NUSF-99.55 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Request.

NUSF-99.58 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Request.

NUSF-99.59 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion, to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Request. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, to enter Orders granting applications NUSF-99.43 (Hastings Exchange Rte 6), NUSF-99.51 (Elmwood RL08 Exchange), NUSF-99.53 (Nebraska City RL07 Exchange), NUSF-99.54 (Ashland RL06 Exchange), NUSF-99.55 (Ashland RL05 Exchange), NUSF-99.58 (Ashland RL15 Exchange), and NUSF-99.59 (Nebraska City RL02 Exchange) projects. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

Cullen Robbins informed the Commission of the telecommunications complaints and outages received by the Communications Department during the preceding month.

Outages for June 2019							
Telephone Company	Affected Area	Outage Date	Completion Date	Duration	Number of Access Lines	Cause Primary	Comments
Qwest Corporation	Scottsbluff & Minatare	Jun-03-19	Jun-03-19	0 d 1 h	333	Equipment	This service outage was "self restored" meaning that the switch reset itself – basically it rebooted and had service restored in 40 minutes.
Great Plains Communications, LLC	Bancroft	Jun-05-19	Jun-05-19	0 d 3 h	272	Cable Cut	GPC contractor, there were locates done by Great Plains Communications and locates were correct. Crews spliced fiber to restore.
Hamilton Telephone Company	Trumbull	Jun-05-19	Jun-05-19	0 d 1 h	72	Equipment	Issue with transport equipment (Brocade CES) in the central office that connects with their Calix blades that provide the dial tone to customers. Technician made a manual reboot to the equipment and was restored.
Qwest Corporation	St. Paul	Jun-08-19	Jun-09-19	0 d 15 h	452	Equipment	The St. Paul Switch is not processing calls. Field operations re-synced and re-routed traffic to restore service.
Qwest Corporation	St. Paul, Farwell, Loup City	Jun-09-19	Jun-10-19	0 d 20 h	799	Equipment	Portions of the St. Paul, Farwell, and Loup City switches are not processing toll calls. The circuits were re-homed to a new path to restore services.
Qwest Corporation	Bennington	Jun-20-19	Jun-20-19	0 d 1 h	159	Cable Cut	The locate ticket number is 191660046 - locates were accurate. Becker Trenching and Water damaged the cable with a backhoe while doing something for the elementary school in Bennington. CenturyLink's damage claim # is 7243226.
Qwest Corporation	Omaha	Jun-23-19	Jun-24-19	1 d 5 h	192	Damaged Cable	Copper splice that went bad during a storm, causing a wet cable, which caused the outage. The cable was re-spliced, and protected from future water issues, and service was restored.

NATURAL GAS DEPARTMENT

NG-101/ Nichole Mulcahy informed the Commission on the status
PI-224 meetings with NorthWestern Energy on Monday, July 15
at 10:00 a.m. and Black Hills Energy on Thursday, July
18 at 9:00 a.m. NG-101.1 Black Hills Energy. NG-101.2
NorthWestern Energy.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

R&R 202 In the Matter of the Commission, on its own motion,
seeking to establish Title 291, Chapter 16, to adopt
Reverse Auction and Wireless Registry rules and regulations in
accordance with Nebraska Legislative Bill 994 [2018]. Motion
made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan
Watermeier to enter an Order Scheduling Workshop. Motion passed
with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder,
Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

B-1774 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to modify the authority granted to Community Alternatives Nebraska, Inc., Lincoln, Certificate B-1774, from common carrier to contract carrier status. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to enter an Order modifying Certificate of Authority. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

B-1909 In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own motion, seeking to reinstate the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued to Bus at the Yard, d/b/a Luxury Limousine, Lincoln, in Certificate B-1909. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter an Order cancelling suspension and reinstating Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

B-1998 In the Matter of the Application of Mike's Transportation Services LLC, Lincoln, seeking to acquire, through transfer, the authority held by Golden Plains Services, Inc., d/b/a GPS Transportation, Lincoln, in Certificate No. B-1829. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram, to enter an Order granting temporary operating authority. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades voting NAY.

B-1999 In the Matter of the Application of Mike's Capital Cab LLC, Lincoln, seeking to acquire, through transfer, the authority held by Servant Cab Company, LLC, d/b/a Yellow Cab Company and Capital Cab Company, Lincoln, in Certificate B-1581. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, to enter an Order granting temporary operating authority. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades voting NAY.

M-14248 In the Matter of the Application of MW Moving, LLC, McCook, seeking authority as a common carrier in Nebraska intrastate commerce in the transportation of household goods between all points in Nebraska over irregular routes. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson, Order Granting Application. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT (Cont.)

BR-520/ In the Matter of WADD I, LLC d/b/a Wings of Love, Omaha,
B-1745 seeking to establish its rates and charges subject to the
Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3.
Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan
Watermeier, to enter an Order Nunc Pro Tunc. Motion passed with
Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram
and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

BR-562/ In the Matter of the Application of Live Well Home Care,
B-1992 Sioux City, Iowa, seeking to establish its rates and
charges subject to the Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat.
Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson,
seconded by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, to enter an Order granting
rates. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades,
Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

BR-564/ In the Matter of the Application of Lift Medical
B-1948 Transportation, Omaha, seeking to establish its rates and
charges subject to the Provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat.
Chapter 75, Articles 1 and 3. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram,
seconded by Commissioner Crystal Rhoades, to enter an Order granting
rates on emergency basis. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod
Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier
voting AYE.

In the Matter of the 2019 Annual Report to the Legislature on the
Status of the Implementation of LB 629 (2015). Jamie Reyes discusses
the 2019 Annual Report schedule.

GRAIN WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT

GW-2187 In the Matter of the Application of Richardson Milling
Inc., South Sioux City, Nebraska, requesting a \$250,000
deductible on its stock insurance. Motion made by Commissioner Rod
Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram To enter an order
granting application. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson,
Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting
AYE.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Executive Director's recommendation to approve Commission invoices. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

The following invoices were paid between 6/26/19 and 7/16/19 and should be ratified:

Crystal Rhoades	\$	16.24
Crystal Rhoades		39.00
Crystal Rhoades		836.94
Mary Ridder		1,293.40
Tim Schram		512.72
Dan Watermeier		315.52
Dan Watermeier		88.16

Executive Director's recommendation to approve Commission Minutes for February, March, April and May, 2019. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE.

Executive Director's recommendation to approve Commissioner Tim Schram to travel to and attend the Mid-America Regulatory Conference Annual Meeting, to be held in Des Moines, IA, from August 11, 2019 through August 14, 2019, with the first \$1,500 to be covered by stipend and the remaining expenses to be paid by the Commission. Motion made by Commissioner Rod Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Dan Watermeier. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

Executive Director's recommendation to approve Commissioner Dan Watermeier to travel to and attend the Mid-America Regulatory Conference Annual Meeting, to be held in Des Moines, IA, from August 11, 2019 through August 14, 2019, with the first \$1,500 to be covered by stipend and the remaining expenses to be paid by the Commission. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

Executive Director's recommendation to approve James Almond to travel to and attend the APCO Instructor Training Course in Wayland, MI, from September 29 through October 5, 2019, with all expenses to be paid by the Commission. Motion made by Commissioner Tim Schram, seconded by Commissioner Rod Johnson. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (Cont.)

Executive Director's recommendation to approve Steve Stovall to travel to and attend the National Association of State Relay Administrators (NASRA) 2019 Conference, to be held in Phoenix, AZ, from September 11 through September 15, with all expenses to be paid by the Commission. Motion made by Commissioner Dan Watermeier, seconded by Commissioner Tim Schram. Motion passed with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier voting AYE, and Commissioner Crystal Rhoades present not voting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m. with Commissioners Rod Johnson, Crystal Rhoades, Mary Ridder, Tim Schram and Dan Watermeier present. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on July 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. with an agenda to be available in the office of the Executive Director at 10:00 a.m. on July 29, 2019.

Chair

Executive Director